

CLAIMS

1. A device for use as a station in a wireless communications system comprised of a cluster of such devices operating according to a predetermined communications protocol, the device comprising control means coupled with an address data store and a transceiver, the control means being operable to transmit and receive data and control messages via said transceiver and to effect an installation procedure whereby each device of a cluster obtains a different device address;

wherein
1. ~~characterised in that~~ the control means is arranged, on receipt of a command to effect an installation procedure:

a) to generate and broadcast a first message requesting a network address, to store a network address if received in reply, else to generate a network address;

b) if a network address is received at step a) to generate a device address and broadcast said device address in combination with said network address, to repeat the step of device address generation and transmission if a response is received, else to store said device address;

c) if a network address is generated at step a), to broadcast the generated network address, to repeat the step of network address generation and transmission if a response is received, else to store said network address then to generate and store a device address.

2. A device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the control means is arranged to store an indication that the device has been installed and, if a further command to effect the installation procedure is received, to transmit the network address in response to a received message requesting a network address.

3. A device as claimed in Claim 1, comprising a random number generator coupled with the control means, wherein the generated device

address comprises a generated random number.

4. A device as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the network address, if generated, comprises a generated random number.

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5. A device as claimed in Claim 1, said device having a user operable push button control, operation of which generates said command to effect the installation procedure.

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6. A wireless communications system comprising a cluster of devices according to Claim 2, installed as a network, wherein all inter-device messages contain the originating device and network addresses.

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7. A system as claimed in Claim 6, wherein each of the devices installed in a networked cluster maintains an at least partial list of the installed device addresses of the cluster.

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8. A system as claimed in Claim 7, wherein each installed device of a networked cluster is configured to periodically broadcast its network and device addresses and those devices of the networked cluster maintaining an at least partial list are configured to delete those device addresses from the list for which a broadcast device address has not been received for a predetermined period.

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9. A system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein each device of a networked cluster is configured to periodically broadcast, with its device address, data defining functional capabilities of that device.

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10. A system as claimed in Claim 6, wherein at least one device of the networked cluster is configured to detect when two further devices of that cluster have a common device address and to transmit a signal to each such

device, the receipt of which causes each receiving device to re-execute step b) of the installation procedure.

- 5 11. A system as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the wireless communication between devices of a networked cluster is by radio frequency link.

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